

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 6, 2004 LB 1065

program. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I also am interested in listening to Senator Beutler's proposal. And what I would have in mind, if you remember in the budget cuts in the last, I believe it was, two years ago when we had the sale...half a cent sales tax increase, we took the half a cent on motor vehicle sales and, instead of sending that to the Highway Trust Fund, we kept it in the General Fund. And I'm not sure when that ends but I would...I would think that we'd be able to, when that ends, keep that money and, instead of sending it to the trust fund, put it in the ethanol fund. And I guess my argument, I've always been a strong supporter of not robbing the Highway Trust Fund, but I could make this right with myself by this was money that never really was in it. It was just an increase in the sales tax on motor vehicles and we could use it for this one year for this purpose. And so I'd be interested in finding out when that sales tax ended. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Bourne, on the Beutler amendment, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I'm certainly not opposed to listening to what Senator Beutler has to say or offer. He's usually creative and has some good ideas. But I will tell you I'm comfortable with what is in LB 1065 now. We did not know, as I understand it, the extent of our obligations in LB 1065 and, while Senator Landis says that we are short now and I have no reason to doubt that, my sense was, is that after June 30 of 2004, we will know what our...the exact extent of our obligation is as it relates to the ethanol incentives. And so my sense was, is that LB 1065, as originally drafted, would have to be adjusted one way or another to accomplish the incentives that we really don't know are going to be required, meaning we don't know how many plants are going to be built before June 30, but 1st of July we will know how many plants and we will know the extent of the state's obligation. So again, I was under the impression that LB 1065, as originally